

Pjb

NOV 16 1995

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. William R. Willen
Managing Counsel, Product Legal Group
American Honda Motor Company, Inc.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

NSA-111paw
95V-203

Dear Mr. Willen:

This acknowledges receipt of your Defect Information Report dated October 16, 1995, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 6,476 Honda 1994 model Civic del Sol cars manufactured from August 3 through October 22, 1993, in which the passenger airbag assembly retaining tabs used to attach the module to the housing were incorrectly drilled. The assigned ID Number for this recall campaign is 95V-203.

Honda is responsible for the remedy of these vehicles from this date forward, regardless of vehicle age, mileage, or ownership. You should know that the agency provides a listing of safety recalls to the media at the end of each month. This recall will be a part of that listing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

In order for us to complete our file on this matter, under Part 573.5(c)(8), we request that Honda identify and describe how the remedial program will be conducted. This description should identify where repairs are to be made and how notification to purchasers will be conducted. It is otherwise assumed that this recall shall begin nationally, and uniformly, within 30 calendar days. We request that Honda provide a proposed schedule for the implementation of this recall. The schedule should include, but not be limited to, the dates of (1) notification to distributors, dealers/retailers, and purchasers; (2) the news release to the media as well as a hard copy or transcript; and (3) when parts necessary for remedy of this recall will be available. The schedule must also include an explanation for any delay in the implementation of this recall.

Please provide this information, referencing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's identification codes on page 1 of this letter, to this office by December 13, 1995.

NOTIFICATION TO PURCHASERS


Notification to purchasers should begin as soon as possible. A draft copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by facsimile (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORTS

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within 1 month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. For instance, the current calendar quarter began on October 1 and ends on December 31, 1995. If notification occurs in this time frame, the first quarterly report is due by January 30, 1996. In the case where the recall appears to be completed, quarterly reporting is required until your company is notified otherwise by this office.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pat Wallace or Mrs. Barbara Hayes at (202) 366-5232 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,


Jonathan D. White, Chief
Technical Analysis Branch
Office of Defects Investigation
Safety Assurance

HONDA

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

1919 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, CA 90501-2746
(310) 783-2000

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95 OCT 24 PM 3:47

OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

October 16, 1995

95V-206 (1)

Mr. Michael Brownlee
Associate Administrator
Office of Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh St., S.W. -
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Brownlee:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.5 as it applies to a determination by Honda Motor Co., Ltd., of a defect related to motor vehicle safety involving certain Honda Civic del Sol vehicles.

Name of manufacturer: Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

Manufacturer's Agent: William R. Willen
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description and Dates of Manufacture</u>
1994 Honda Civic del Sol	JHMEG1***RS000006 - JHMEG1***RS002460 August 3, 1993 to October 20, 1993
	JHMEG2***RS000009 - JHMEG2***RS001133 August 23, 1993 - October 19, 1993
	JHMEH6***RS000006 - JHMEH6***RS003069 August 18, 1993 to October 21, 1993

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 6,476

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

55V-200 (U)

Defect description:

The passenger airbags installed in certain 1994 Civic del Sol's were manufactured improperly. The retainer tabs used to secure the lower module to the upper housing were drilled incorrectly. As a result, the retainer tabs may not have sufficient strength. This may allow the module to separate from the housing during deployment. If this happens, the airbag will not inflate properly, and a passenger would lose the benefits of a proper airbag deployment. (See attached drawing.)

Chronology:

February 10, 1995	American Honda Motor (AHM) notified Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) of two additional incidents (making a total of three) of improper airbag deployments in 1994 Civic del Sol's. AHM called in the affected airbag components. The component parts were received and sent to HMC on 3/02/95.
March 30, 1995	AHM collected additional in-use parts retrieved from customer's cars and sent them to HMC for analysis.
June 8, 1995	AHM notified HMC of an additional complaint which AHM had received.
October 6, 1995	After the investigation of the passenger side airbag module, HMC determined that a safety problem existed.

Corrective measures taken:

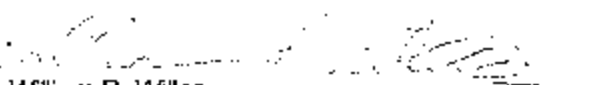
Repair the airbag module assembly by adding reinforcement brackets.

Dealer and customer notification:

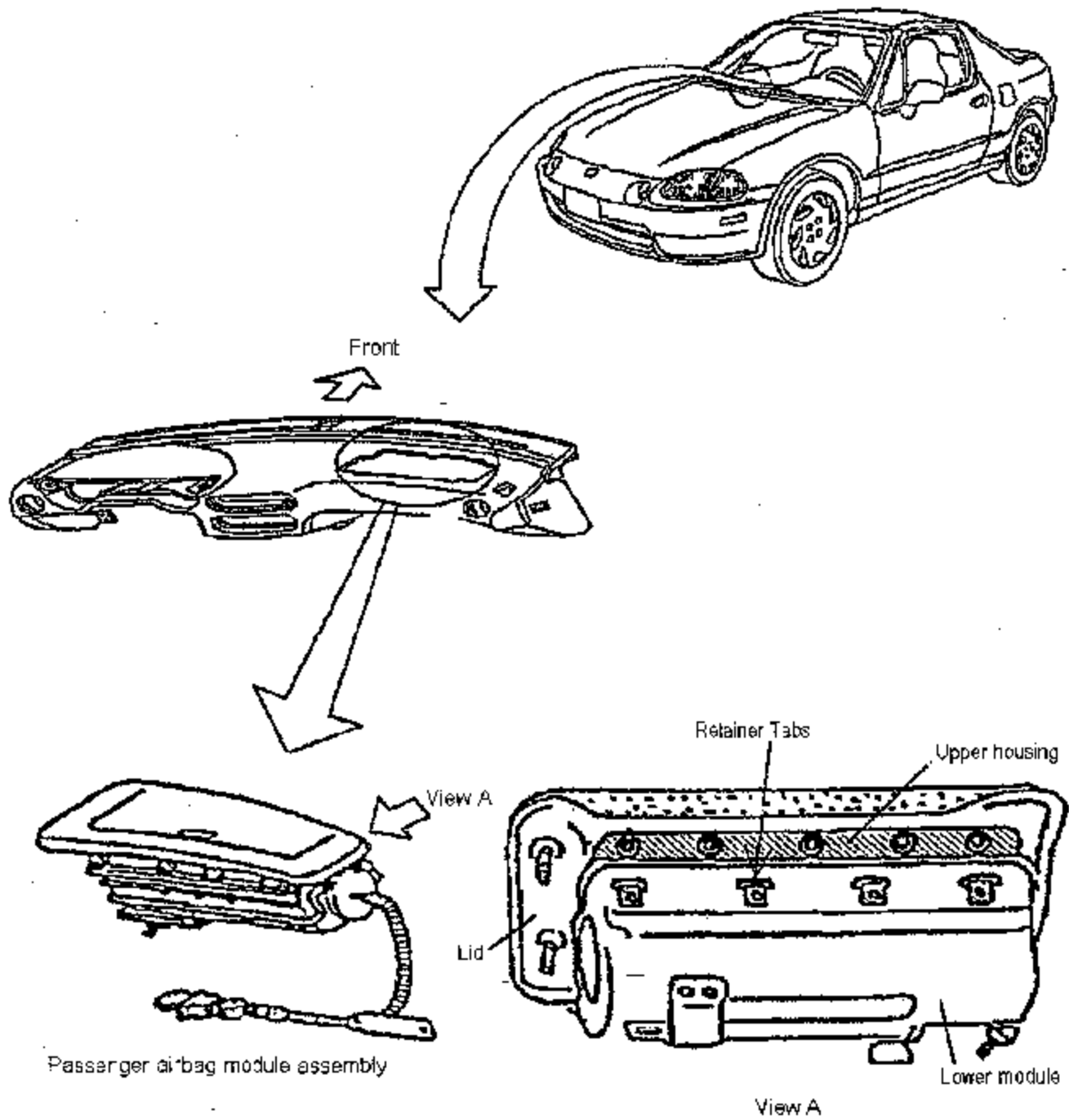
The owner notification letter and dealer bulletin will be forwarded as soon as they are available.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.


William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Legal Group

WRW/ke



HONDA

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
1919 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, CA 90501-2746
(310) 783-2000

November 22, 1995

Mr. Jonathan D. White, Chief
Technical Analysis Branch
Office of Defects Investigation, Safety Assurance
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

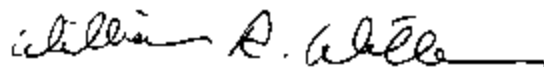
RE: 95V-203 Civic del Sol Passenger Side Airbag Module Recall

Dear Mr. White:

In accordance with our campaign to correct a safety defect in the passenger side airbag modules of certain 1994 Civic del Sol automobiles, of which you were informed in our October 16, 1995 letter, we are submitting copies of the dealer bulletins and the text of the customer letter (see Attachment #1). An implementation schedule is also enclosed (see Attachment #2).

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Legal Group

WRW:ke

Enclosures

RECEIVED
NOV 24 AM 10:59
OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Attachment #1

SERVICE BULLETIN

HONDA
SERVICE BULLETIN

Model	Applicable To	File Under	Bulletin No.
1994 DEL SOL	See VEHICLES AFFECTED	BODY	95-042
			Issue Date OCT 17, 1995

Recall: del Sol Passenger's Airbag

BACKGROUND

The passenger airbags installed in certain 1994 Civic del Sols were manufactured improperly. The retainer tabs used to secure the lower module to the upper housing were drilled incorrectly. As a result, the retainer tabs may not have sufficient strength. This may allow the module to separate from the housing during deployment. If this happens, the airbag will not inflate properly, and a passenger would lose the benefits of a proper airbag deployment.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

1994 del Sol S:

From VIN JHMEG1... RS000006 to RS002370
From VIN JHMEG1... RS002373 to RS002380
From VIN JHMEG1... RS002382 to RS002384
From VIN JHMEG1... RS002388 to RS002390
From VIN JHMEG1... RS002392 to RS002393
From VIN JHMEG1... RS002396 to RS002398
From VIN JHMEG1... RS002406 to RS002416
VIN JHMEG1... RS002446
From VIN JHMEG1... RS002453 to RS002454
From VIN JHMEG1... RS002459 to RS002460

1994 del Sol Si:

From VIN JHMEH6... RS000006 to RS002950
From VIN JHMEH6... RS002969 to RS002971
From VIN JHMEH6... RS002975 to RS002978
VIN JHMEH6... RS003048
VIN JHMEH6... RS003069

1994 del Sol VTEC:

From VIN JHMEG2... RS000009 to RS001123
From VIN JHMEG2... RS001125 to RS001128
From VIN JHMEG2... RS001132 to RS001133

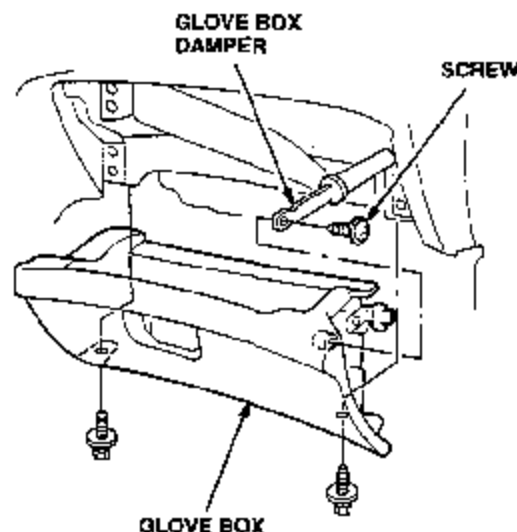
CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Owners of affected vehicles will be contacted by mail. The owner will be asked to take the vehicle to a dealership for repair. The text of the customer letter is at the end of this service bulletin.

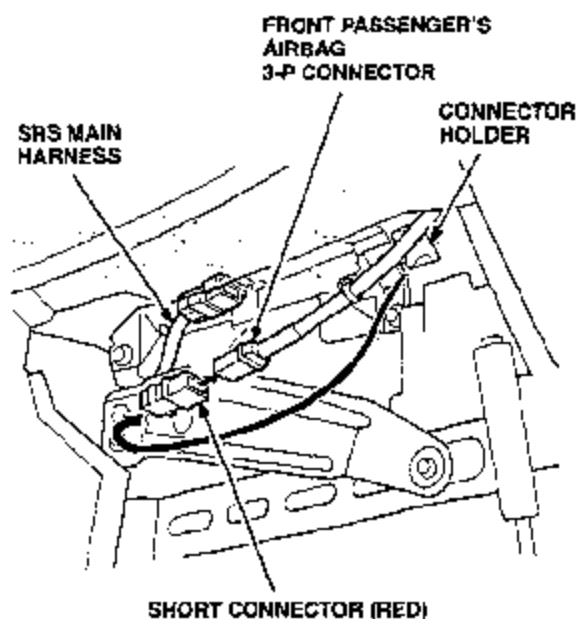
CORRECTIVE ACTION

Install the bracket kit (see PARTS INFORMATION) on the passenger's airbag module.

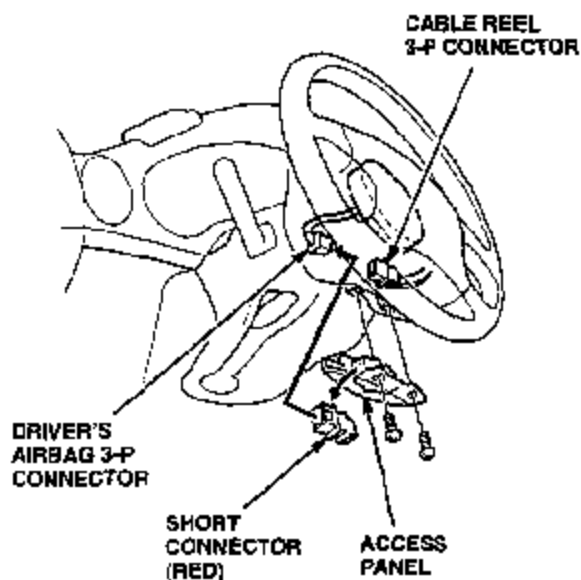
1. Get the customer's anti-theft code, and record the radio station presets. Disconnect the negative terminal from the battery.
2. Remove the glove box.



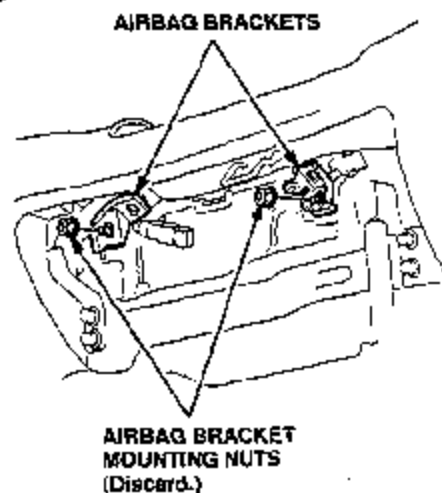
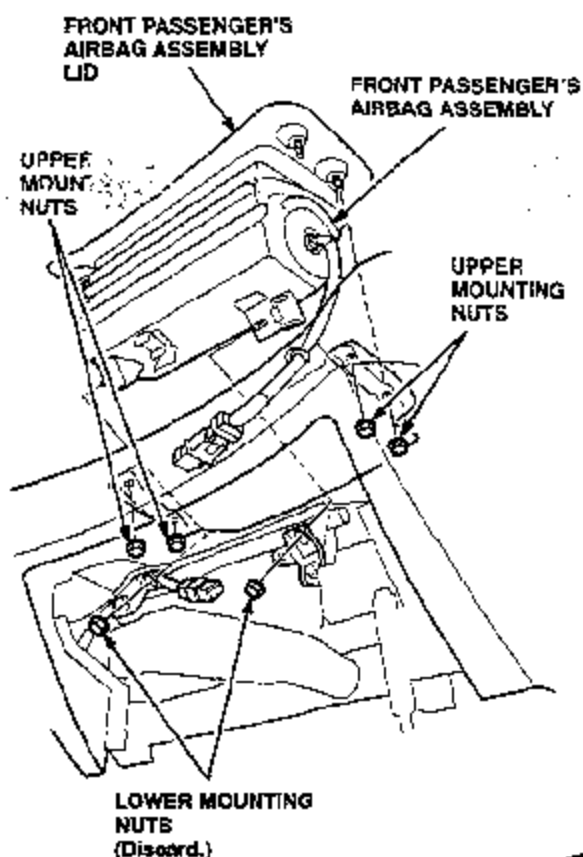
3. Remove the short connector from its holder. Disconnect the passenger's airbag 3-P connector and install the short connector.



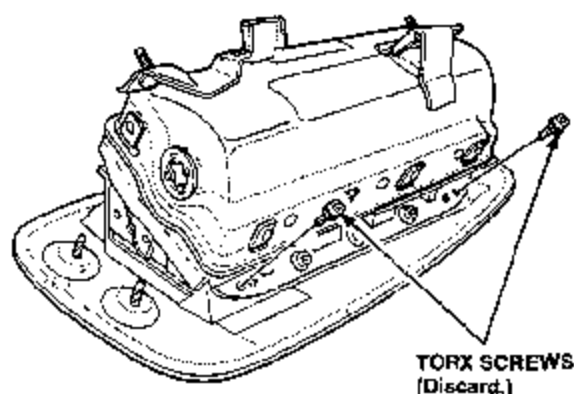
4. Remove the access panel on the bottom of the steering wheel. Remove the short connector from its holder. Disconnect the driver's airbag 3-P connector and install the short connector.



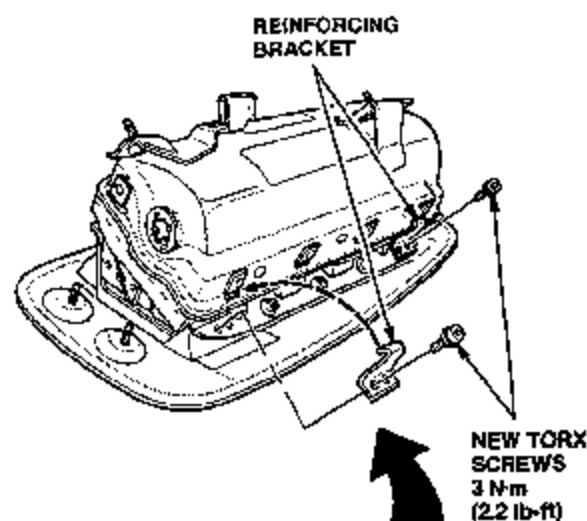
5. Remove the six airbag assembly mounting nuts, and the two airbag bracket mounting nuts. Carefully lift the airbag out of the dashboard. Discard the lower mounting nuts and the bracket mounting nuts.



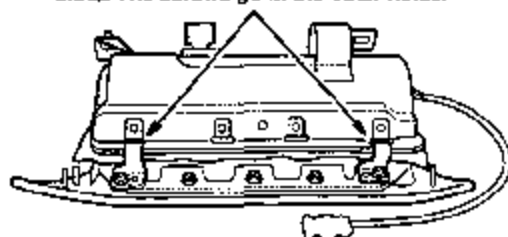
6. Use a TORX T25H driver to remove the tamper-proof screws at the end of the airbag assembly. Discard the screws.



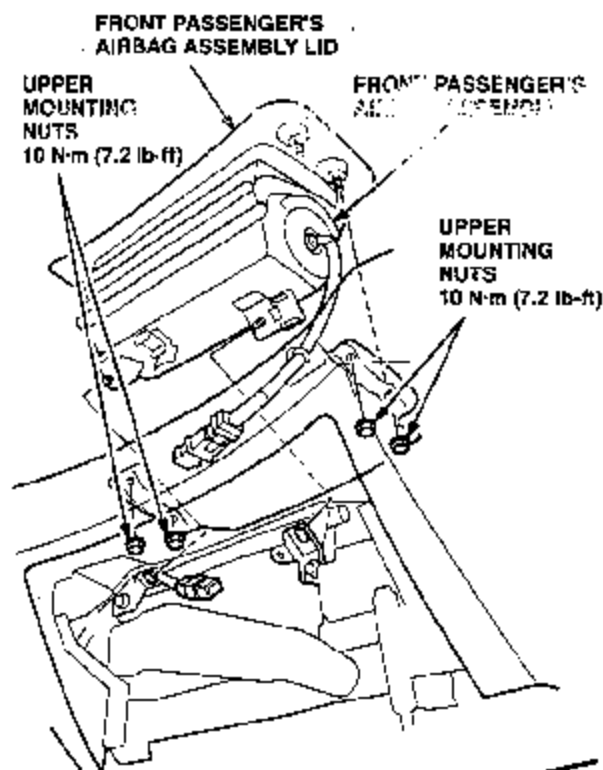
7. Hook the reinforcing brackets into the slots in the lower module. Install the brackets with the new TORX screws from the kit. Torque the screws to 3 N·m (2.2 lb·ft).



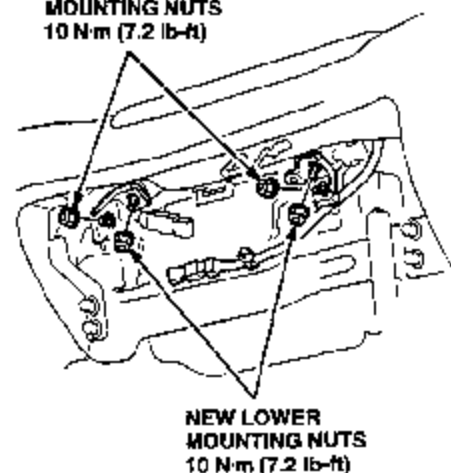
The reinforcing brackets hook into the outer slots. The screws go in the outer holes.



8. Reinstall the airbag in the dashboard. Replace the original bracket mounting nuts and the lower mounting nuts with new nuts from the kit. Use the original upper mounting nuts. Tighten the upper mounting nuts first, then tighten the lower mounting nuts and bracket nuts. Tighten all eight nuts to 10 N·m (7.2 lb·ft).



NEW BRACKET MOUNTING NUTS
10 N·m (7.2 lb·ft)



9. Remove and store the short connector. Reconnect the passenger's airbag 3-P connector.
10. Remove and store the short connector. Reconnect the driver's airbag 3-P connector, and reinstall the access panel.
11. Reinstall the glove box.
12. Reconnect the battery. Turn the ignition switch to ON and watch the SRS indicator on the instrument panel. It should go out in about six seconds. If the indicator does not go out, refer to page 23-244 in the service manual for information on reading and clearing diagnostic trouble codes in the SRS.
13. Enter the anti-theft code and the customer's radio station presets. Reset the clock.
14. Center-punch a completion mark above the last digit of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

JHMEGXXXXRSXXXXXX

PARTS INFORMATION

Passenger's airbag bracket kit:
P/N 06780-SR2-999, H/C 4924072

TOOL INFORMATION

One TORX T25H tamper-proof driver will be automatically sent to each dealership. Additional drivers can be purchased from:

Snap-On Tools - #TTXR25E (1/4 inch drive)
Mac Tools - #MT25H (1/4 inch drive)
Matco Tools - #A25TPTX (1/4 inch drive)

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

Operation number: 754115
Flat rate time: 0.7 hour
Failed part: P/N 06780-SR2-A80ZA
H/C 4431250
Defect code: 238
Contention code: K02
Template ID: 95-042A

Recall: del Sol Passenger's Side Airbag

Dear del Sol Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the passenger's side airbag of certain 1994 del Sols. Our records indicate that you may own one of these vehicles.

What is the defect?

The passenger airbags installed in certain 1994 Civic del Sols were manufactured improperly. This may allow the airbag housing to separate during deployment. If this happens, the airbag will not inflate properly.

An airbag supplements the protection provided by seat belts by helping to reduce injuries in severe frontal collisions. If the airbag fails to inflate properly, the passenger loses the benefits of the airbag, which may increase the risk of head or chest injuries.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda automobile dealer and make an appointment to have your car repaired. They will install brackets on the passenger's side airbag assembly to prevent this problem from occurring. *This repair will be done free of charge.* The parts are now available. This repair takes about an hour; however, the dealer may need to keep your car longer than that because of the workload. Please call for an appointment.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

Honda Campaign Information Service Office
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

The toll-free number is (800) 999-1009

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your car, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-9393 (residents of Washington D.C. should call 366-0123)

What to do if our information is incorrect.

This notice was mailed to you according to the most current information we have available. If you no longer own a del Sol, or some information in this notice is incorrect, please fill out and return the included, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. This will help us update our records.

Thank you for your cooperation. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Honda Automobile Division

Attachment #2

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

**1994 Civic del Sol
PASSENGER AIRBAG MODULE REPAIR
RECALL NO. 95V-203**

Press release to media	None
Notification to dealers mailed (service bulletin)	October 17, 1995
Notification to owners mailed (owner letter)	October 31, 1995
Parts shipped to dealers	October 20, 1995



AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746
(310) 783-2000

R 95V-203

November 3, 1995

Dear Service Manager:

Enclosed is the TORX T25H tamper-proof driver required for the del Sol passenger's airbag recall (refer to service bulletin 95-042, dated October 17). One style of driver sent with this letter has a pin through the socket end. Remove and discard the rubber O-ring and the pin before attempting to use this tool. If you require additional tools, you may purchase them from:

Snap-On Tools

Mac Tools

Matco Tools

Tool number TTXR25E

Tool number MT25H

Tool number A25TPTX

Also enclosed is copy of the del Sol passenger's airbag Campaign Responsibility Report. Every eligible 1994 del Sol VIN reported as being delivered to your dealership for this campaign is listed in the left hand column. A blank space under the heading "UNIT STAT" means that the vehicle is eligible and the owner should have their 1994 del Sol inspected free of charge. If the letter "D" is printed under the heading "PRD USE," it means that you have reported it as being in demo service at your dealership; it must be fixed prior to retail sale. There may be other two-letter codes; a complete listing of these codes and their specific meaning can be found on page 7-2 of your 1995 Service Operations Manual.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

Honda Automobile Division